



Senate

Paper Title	Education Quality & Standards Board, 18 November 2020: Executive Summary
Outcome requested	The Senate is asked to note the summary report.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	A high-level summary of the discussions and decisions of the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) meeting held on 18 November 2020. For fuller details on any of the points mentioned, including full papers and minutes, members are directed to the EQSB QMplus page: https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6851
Questions for Senate to consider	None
Regulatory/statutory reference points	
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Senate only.
Sponsor	Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education)

Education Quality and Standards Board
Executive summary of the meeting held on 18 November 2020

Full papers (including coversheets that expand on the points below) are available in QMplus:
<https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6851>

1. The Board **noted** that Chair's action had been taken since the previous meeting to approve limited changes to the Admissions policies, and to approve the QM submission to the University of London Quality Enhancement Review (an annual quality assurance return).
2. The Board **noted** a written update from the Vice-Principal (Education), covering Education leadership, Education 3.0 and 3.1, the NSS and student surveys, the QM Academy, OfS regulatory matters including [a consultation on regulating quality and standards in HE](#), and student engagement.
3. The Board **considered** [new requirements for the design of degree algorithms](#) and related processes from the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (UKSCQA), and the results of benchmarking against QM's procedures. QM was generally very well-positioned, but would need to undertake actions including drafting a student-facing explanation of 'why' we used our current algorithm, building five-yearly reviews of the algorithm into our quality assurance schedule, and looking at a number of issues around academic levels, the borderline classification policy, and the use of extenuating circumstances in classification. A revised version of the benchmarking document would be produced for consideration at Faculty-level via the Deans for Education prior to further consideration by the EQSB.
4. The Board **noted** a verbal update on changes to the programme approval process. Longer term plans for 2021-22 and beyond were still in development, but it was confirmed that for 2020-21 the existing process (and paperwork) would continue to apply except that endorsement at Stage 1 of the process would come from the Faculty rather than from SRAG.
5. The Board **noted** a verbal update on changes to the programme review process. A new system would replace both Annual Programme Review and Periodic Review, with a plan for a light-touch annual monitoring process with more in-depth reviews on a less frequent cycle (on a risk-based approach, allowing for these to be brought forward if required). The process was still in development, but QM aimed to run pilots before the end of 2020-21.
6. The Board **considered** the 2019-20 suspension of regulations report and details of the annual assurance return to Council, both of which appear on the Senate agenda for December 2020.
7. The Board **noted** an update on module evaluation; small changes had been made to the question sets to remove references to the Queen Mary Model and add new questions about online learning.
8. The Board **noted** an update on work to reform and support Student-Staff Liaison Committees. Working together, QMSU, the Queen Mary Academy and the Education team had developed new guidance, and training packages for both student and staff chairs.
9. The Board **noted** a summary of the results of the 2019-20 UKES and PTES surveys. Participation in both had been low as a result of the disruption in 2019-20, but the results for PTES were generally encouraging. UKES participation was particularly low, and only a handful of HEIs continued to participate. The Board considered whether there was continued value in QM doing so, but agreed – noting that some schools/institutes did find it helpful – that QM would continue to participate but without a requirement to publicise UKES where individual schools/institutes did not wish to do so.
10. The Board **approved** internal governance arrangements for the approval, development and review of non-credit-bearing provision in the Queen Mary Academy. The Board also considered the first annual impact report from the Academy, and noted its future plans.

11. The Board **approved** a set of nonstandard semester dates for the new MSc Economics degree apprenticeship programme, and a minor change to the nonstandard dates for new January-start programmes in SBM. The Board noted the importance of aligning dates for internal programmes wherever possible, partly in order to be able to better support programmes such as the MSc Economics which had externally-set requirements for non-standard dates.
12. The Board **noted** a written and verbal update from the QMSU Faculty Vice-Presidents.
13. The Board **considered** an update report from Library Services, and focused in particular on changes to the pricing models of e-books, which some providers had raised very significantly at a time when students and institutions were reliant on this format. A question had been raised in Parliament, but this had not resolved this issue and the Board considered how best to address the local issue and support the national campaign.
14. The Board **approved** a number of additional QM Extras – extracurricular activities validated by Queen Mary that could be included on student’s Higher Education Achievement Records (HEARs).

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